

# Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 14

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

April 8, 2005

8 days  
until... **Air**  
Amistad  
Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

## Newslines

### Wing commander's call

A wing commander's call will be held Thursday in Anderson Hall. Officers may attend at 9 or 11 a.m.

All enlisted members should attend at 4 p.m.

### Right of way at crosswalks

The 47th Security Forces Squadron would like to remind Team XL motorists that pedestrians in crosswalks have the right of way and vehicles are required to stop for them.

This is not only state law, but also a courtesy befitting of the professionalism and civility Laughlin residents are known for.

### Hazardous materials

Base residents can drop off unwanted, but still usable, cleaning and automotive products, lawn and garden products and other hazardous materials to building 75 for reuse in the base resident hazmat free-issue program Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m. If PCSing, call hazmats office to make other arrangements. For details, call 298-4351.

### Customer service closure

The finance customer service desk will close today at 2:30 p.m. and April 14 at 3:45 p.m. for commander's calls.

For emergencies, call the command post at 298-5167.

## Deployment stats

Deployed: 24  
Returning in 30 days: 1  
Deploying in 30 days: 13

## Mission status

Mission capable rate  
(As of Tuesday)

T-1, 88.5%      T-38A, 78.0%  
T-6, 93.6%      T-38C, 74.5%



Photos by Capt. Paula Kurtz

## It's time to go...

(Left) Senior Airman Bryan Ficznar, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, says goodbye to his wife before leaving for a four-month deployment to Iraq Sunday. Airman Ficznar and five other members of the 47th CES were the first group of Laughlin members to leave for deployment on a Continental flight from Del Rio to Houston. (Right) The group bids goodbye to family members and friends present before boarding the aircraft Sunday.

# Thunderbirds to visit Laughlin

## Compiled from staffs reports

The U. S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the Air Force's premier aerial demonstration team, will visit Laughlin April 16 as part of the Air Amistad 2005 open house here.

The main gate will open to the public at 9 a.m. and public events will conclude at 4:30 p.m.

Other scheduled performances beginning at 10:30 a.m. include the U.S. Air Force Academy "Wings of Blue" jump team, a parade of Laughlin aircraft, World War II through Vietnam era warbird demonstrations, T-6 and F-15

demonstrations and others. In addition to the flying acts, several aircraft will be on static display, and the U. S. Air Force Academy falcon will be on hand.

This year's theme is "Honoring America's Sacrifice for Freedom."

Military members may wear civilian attire unless otherwise directed by their commander. However, they and civilian employees who have reflective belts are asked to bring them to be used as an identifying "uniform" in case of emergency.

There will be an aircrew reception for the Thunderbirds and other air show participants at 6 p.m. April 15 at Club

XL. All base personnel are invited. Also, immediately following the air show, there will be an "Afterburner" party open to all base members at 4:45 p.m. in Hangar 3, building 414, to thank base employees for their work in putting the air show together.

Laughlin members should direct questions about their air show duties, if any, or the uniform of the day to their supervisor or commander. For more information on demonstrations and show times, see next week's Border Eagle insert for details or go to <http://www.laughlin.af.mil/Airshow/index.html>.

## Equal opportunity: Everyone's responsibility



### Commander's Corner

**Capt. Tarrance Mosley**  
47th Flying Training Wing  
Military Equal opportunity chief

In my short time here as chief of Military Equal Opportunity, this is a refrain I have heard more times than I care to remember. And in a way, I agree with folks who ask, "Why do I have to attend what is essentially the exact same briefing at every base I PCS (permanent change of station) to?"

My response is simply, because it still happens. By "it", I mean harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

Last year bases in Air Education Training Command received 22 formal discrimination complaints and of those, 10 were complaints of sexual harassment. These numbers suggest that although most people understand what EO is all about, some are just not getting the message.

According to the Equal Em-

ployment Opportunity Commission, federal governmental agencies paid over \$64 million settling harassment and discrimination lawsuits brought by complainants. The time and effort involved in investigating and resolving equal opportunity complaints (whether military or civilian) results in an immeasurable time spent away from the mission.

So, once again we ask the question, "Why do I have to attend MEO newcomer's orientation or first-duty station orientation?" The answer lies in a quote from Chief of Staff, General Jumper and Former Secretary of the Air Force, James Roche, "The enduring competencies developed through diversity are force multipliers."

The diversity they are speaking of is evident in the faces, minds and abilities of every member of Team XL. No organization in the world can boast of such a wide range of talents, skills and personalities that the U.S. Air Force can.

Our objective in MEO and EEO is to allow you to focus your energy on utilizing those talents rather than wasting time and energy concerned about harass-

ment and discrimination.

The fact is, equal opportunity is not just the job of the four individuals in this office, it's everyone's job, and everyone's responsibility.

So the next time you encounter that off color joke or comment that makes you uncomfortable, or the next time your troop approaches you with an equal opportunity issue, be aggressive and work to solve the problem at its source.

Commanders are their unit's ultimate equal opportunity authority, and when issues arise, seek them out and work to resolve them, or contact MEO or EEO for assistance at 298-5400.

Be proactive and request Military Equal Opportunity to conduct a Unit Climate Assessment for your organization, or invite us to speak at your commander's calls, because this message cannot be repeated too often.

So, the next time you're scheduled for the infamous MEO briefing, take it as an opportunity to learn more about your part in keeping our Air Force focused on the mission.

With any luck, some day we will work ourselves out of a job.

## Encouraging excellence ensures focus on team goals

**By Lt. Col. Scott Forest**  
E-3A Aircrew Training Squadron  
commander

GEILENKIRCHEN NATO AIR BASE, Germany — We all know excellence is an important Air Force core value. We each are challenged to apply it daily in our actions, our attitudes and in our planning and decision making. All Airmen have a responsibility to encourage, recognize and deliver individual excellence.

Rewarding excellence encourages it, and there are many ways to reward it. When rewarding or recognizing individual excellence in our teammates, Airmen must use a variety of methods, match them to the circumstances and

keep individual recognition in the right context.

As we finish the Air Force's "season" of annual awards banquets and ceremonies, it is a good time to reflect on how each of us has encouraged and recognized excellence in our workplaces, our wingmen, our teammates, in our families and in ourselves. Did we achieve our goals? Did we help each other to reward or recognize individuals who achieved excellence? Did I achieve excellence and acknowledge it in others?

As I answered these questions and others in reflecting on my successes and failures this past year, I remembered a situation in December of 2003 that

reinforced some lessons about recognizing and rewarding individual excellence. I had taken command of a squadron with members from 13 nations four months earlier and was surprised that I did not find a current or historical unit program to recognize outstanding performers. I set out to correct that.

To lay out a vision, I proposed to the international leadership in the squadron — several flight commanders, senior NCOs, and field grade officers — what I thought was a modest "crawl-walk-run" plan for nominating, selecting and rewarding outstanding performers. I was totally

See 'Excellence,' page 3

## Border Eagle

### Editorial Staff

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**Capt. Paula Kurtz**

*Public affairs chief*

**2nd Lt. Sheila Johnston**

*Internal information chief*

**Tech. Sgt. Anthony Hill**

*PA NCO in charge*

**Airman 1st Class**

**Olufemi Owolabi**

*Editor*

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 47th Flying Training Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

### Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262.

**Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil).

### Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.



Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By including your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also useful if more information is needed to pursue your inquiry. We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved. Please keep e-mails brief.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions. Below are telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a

AAFES	298-3176
Chapel	298-5111
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Contracting	298-5439
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
Finance	298-5204
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

*"Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America's wars."*

— 47th Flying  
Training Wing  
mission statement

Mentorship, training essential to mission success

By Col. Dawn Wheeler  
United States Air Forces Europe  
Inspector General

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — At a fighter base back in the 1980s, we got goal days based on the number of sorties each aircraft flew every month. Known as utilization, or UTE, days, people were given the day off if the wing did well.

One day, the wing commander came to a staff meeting and told us a story of a young captain who had come to see him to complain.

The captain didn't think the wing finance office should be closed on a UTE day; since finance members had nothing to do with the aircrews getting their day off, he felt it was unfair. The commander agreed to look into the matter and invited the captain to the weekly staff meeting.

During the meeting, the commander began going around the room asking questions, starting with the finance. "Would you be as eager to fly if finance didn't see to it that you were paid?" the wing commander asked the captain. Then, turning to me, he said, "Or

if the major didn't see to it that your plane was secured where you left it, what would you fly?"

Calmly, the commander went completely around the room asking simple but penetrating questions as he mentored us that day, letting us know that it takes everyone, from the Airman on the flightline to the commander's support staff to keep the mission going. And, it takes each of our core capabilities to accomplish that mission.

As the inspector general team travels around, I am constantly struck by the motivation, enthusiasm and dedication of the troops. What we find lacking is training. Not the just-in-time training to get specific jobs done, to deploy, or engage in combat, but, rather, the core capabilities training to be able to perform their primary jobs to the best of their ability.

A wing commander recently told me that having to take the time to get back to basics had actually been good for the unit. He said the troops walked taller and approached life with more confidence than he'd seen in a long time.

I have always concurred with the theory that when you "sweat more in peace, you bleed less in war," and we accomplish that by providing quality in-depth training and proper equipment to our troops.

While much of what we do is determined by the day-to-day operations tempo, we need to take time out periodically to get back to basics.

Troops, drag a chief out for a cup of coffee and pick his or her brain about something you remember from technical school but have never actually performed.

Chiefs and senior non-commissioned officers, have a "troop" call at the end of a busy week, and talk to your people about some perhaps-forgotten technical aspect of your job. Small informal get-togethers are a perfect time to impart information long unused, brainstorm new initiatives and recall and dissect recent incidents that could have gone better with a bit more preplanning.

Our Airmen are without a doubt the world's finest, and we owe them the mentorship and training needed to hone their skills

Excellence, from page 2

unprepared for their reaction.

Not only did they not want it, ("so much for consensus," I thought) but they firmly asserted it would hurt the unit and be detrimental to good order, discipline and morale. They had a completely different perspective than mine. They felt strongly that recognition of individual excellence took away from the team concept. I, on the other hand, felt strongly that we would enhance and encourage team performance if individuals were striving for team goals and their performance was rewarded. After good discussion, I asked for hands in favor of the program ... not even close. Only one went up. I relented.

I'm glad I did, because in this context they were right. Our squadron did not start and does

not have an individual recognition program. But, we developed encouragement that is more appropriate and more effective-based on the background and culture of our personnel. On a personal level, I did not consider that experience a failure, but I did re-learn some things.

First, there are many effective ways to promote individual excellence in ourselves and others. Leaders, supervisors and teammates need to use all of them in appropriate places and times: a kind word, a hand-written note, a handshake or a formal write-up.

Airmen and wingmen have a proud tradition of doing these things for each other.

Second, I realized I had been trained, immersed and coached in an Air Force culture that promoted and allowed recognition of individual excellence AND team

excellence; a culture in which the two were not mutually exclusive; and a culture in which rewarding it encourages it. I had taken this for granted, and now I agree with it and appreciate it even more.

Third, our pursuit of individual excellence must be aligned with our team's pursuit of excellence. To benefit our country, we must pursue our core value of excellence just as strongly for our teams and institutions as we do for ourselves.

So as I send my mess dress to the dry cleaners to prepare for the next set of award ceremonies, I am reminded to keep individual excellence and recognition in its context, the team context. We must encourage and reward individual excellence in formal and informal ways that keep us focused on the team goals. Our country deserves nothing less.



## First lady thanks deployed OEF troops

“We support you, we believe in you, and we’re proud of you.” That was the message first lady Laura Bush carried to U.S. troops at Bagram Air Base during her March 30 visit to Afghanistan.

The visit with U.S. servicemembers deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom topped off a six-hour, whirlwind visit through Afghanistan, during which the first lady offered support to Afghan women in their struggle for more rights and reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to expanded educational opportunities for women and children.

At Bagram Air Base, the first lady praised the troops for making these advances possible and thanked them for their service and sacrifice. “Every day you’re protecting the rights and liberties all of us hold dear,” she said. “You’re also bringing opportunity and security to people who have known years of cruel oppression.”

She credited the troops for breaking the grip the Taliban had on Afghanistan, for paving the way for 8 million Afghan men and women to vote in a free election, and for opening schoolroom doors to young girls

who were previously denied an education.

But Mrs. Bush also acknowledged servicemembers’ smaller acts she said have “big consequences” — providing medical care to Afghan civilians, helping the local people endure conditions ranging from snowstorms to floods, and donating shoes, clothing and school supplies, often paid for out of their own pockets.

“Actions like these are vitally important to America’s mission, because they show the people of Afghanistan our true selves,” she said.

And as they carry out this mission, the first lady reminded the troops that the American people and the administration stand firmly behind them.

“Thank you for the sacrifice you make, for every hardship to endure to help freedom prevail in the war on terror,” the first lady said in closing. “I look forward to getting home and telling the president that America is safer because the men and women of Bagram Air Base are on duty. Thank you all so much.”

(Courtesy American Forces Press Service)



Photos by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

### Diggin’ a better ground...

Col. Tod Wolters, 47th Flying Wing commander, Kathren Rodriguez, wing education flight chief and Col. Teresa Daniell, 47th Mission Support Group commander declare the project site of the new education center building open during a ground-breaking ceremony here Tuesday. The \$1.2 million project is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 3. The new building, located opposite the fire station, will contain several offices and a new First Term Airman Class center. The project is managed by 2nd Lt. Kristen King, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron. Base members, representing the squadrons, attended the ceremony.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Christina D. Kinsey

### Here come the Thunderbirds...

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Jundt buffs the underside of a Thunderbird F-16 Fighting Falcon while preparing for an air show at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Sergeant Jundt is an avionics specialist assigned to the Thunderbirds team. The Thunderbirds team is scheduled to visit Laughlin for Air Amistad 2005 on April 16.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Christina D. Kinsey

The Thunderbirds performed in F-16 Fighting Falcons for an air show at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Sunday. The team is stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

# Avoid false alarms by knowing notification procedures

By Lee Ann Mohajerin  
72nd Air Base Wing public affairs

A recent phone message had a family convinced they received the news that all loved ones of a deployed servicemember dread — their loved one was either hurt or killed in action. Fortunately, the phone call was a scam. Unfortunately, the wife experienced several hours of unnecessary stress and worry before she found out her husband was OK.

The distress came after her father-in-law received a message at work that said, “The Army called and had an urgent message for him.”

Frantic for news, she called her husband’s commander, and he said he knew right away something was not

right.

“I knew this (call) might have been nothing, but it’s enough to raise questions, especially when loved ones are so far away and doing hazardous work,” said Maj. Max Dubroff, 72nd Security Forces Squadron.

“This also might have been a rude prank, similar to what happened to many Marine families at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. But it definitely was not a legitimate action that the Department of Defense would take.”

Major Dubroff said several things tipped him off, the most obvious being the telephone call itself.

“The casualty notification system requires in-person notification by a uniformed officer as soon as possible

in any case of a member missing, casualty or death,” he said.

The second problem, he said, was the “Army” reference.

“Only an officer from the same service as the deployed member would notify next of kin,” Major Dubroff said.

Fortunately, the deployed Airman made a morale call to his wife a couple hours after the incident occurred, setting her mind at ease.

To help prevent other family members from being unnecessarily distressed, Major Dubroff suggested Airmen take the following steps.

n Tell family members about the casualty notification team procedures so they can better recognize illegitimate information.

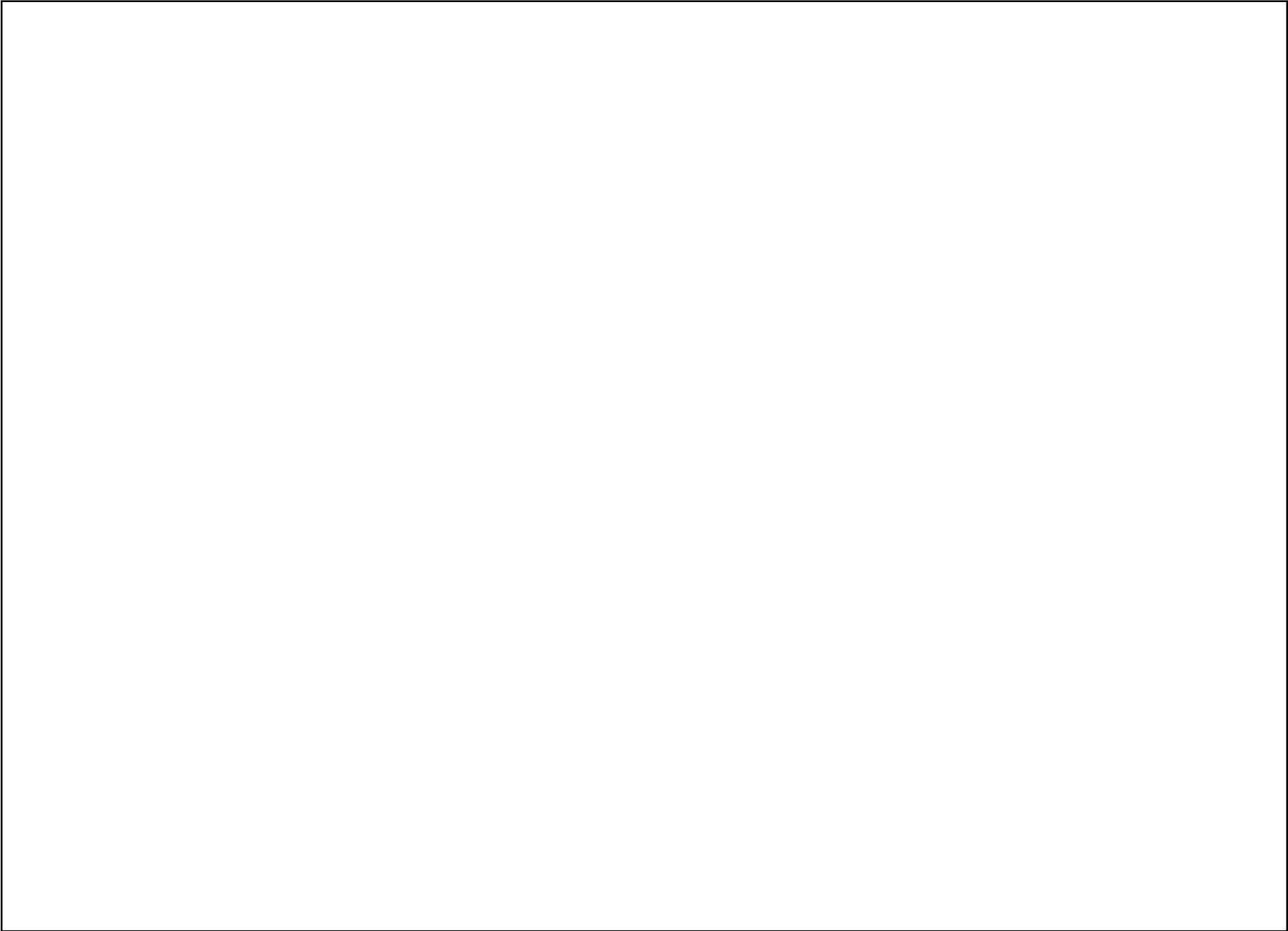
n Give them phone numbers of first sergeants and commanders with whom they can confirm anything questionable.

n Keep virtual record of emergency data information updated.

n Stay in regular communication with family members.

n Never call anyone with information about someone who has been hurt. Too often, the situation is not clear, and the call will do more harm than good.

“Deployments are hard enough on families without these kinds of things distressing our (families),” Major Dubroff said. “While you can’t control scam artists and pranksters, you can arm your family with information that may help them in situations like this.”





# GRADUATION



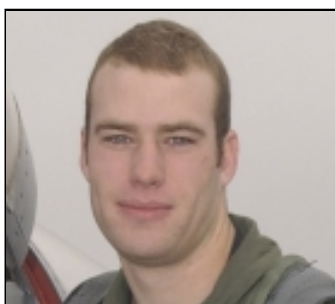
## Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 05-07



**1st Lt. John Mahan**  
T-1  
Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. John Anacker**  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Benjamin Bryan**  
T-6  
Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Christopher Conley**  
E-3  
Tinker AFB, Okla.



**2nd Lt. Adrian De La Fuentes**  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



**2nd Lt. Kevin Haynie**  
KC-135  
McConnell AFB, Kan.



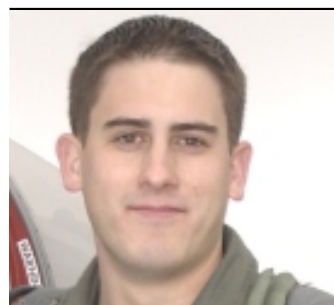
**2nd Lt. Isaac Hipple**  
T-6  
Laughlin AFB



**2nd Lt. Jonathan Holland**  
KC-135  
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



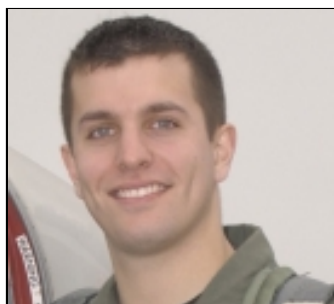
**2nd Lt. John Miranda**  
C-21  
Yokota AB, Japan



**2nd Lt. Byron Neira**  
F-16  
Luke AFB, Ariz.



**2nd Lt. Kirk Schlueter**  
C-21  
Peterson AFB, Colo.



**2nd Lt. Dennis Strasser, Jr.**  
F-15  
Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Vallero**  
C-17  
McChord AFB, Wash.



**2nd Lt. Matthew Wieringa**  
KC-10  
Travis AFB, Calif.



## Bush presents first Medal of Honor for terror war gallantry

WASHINGTON – Two years to the day after his father died saving more than 100 fellow soldiers in the battle for Baghdad’s airport, the young son of an Army noncommissioned officer accepted his father’s Medal of Honor from President Bush at a White House ceremony today.

The president presented the nation’s highest award for combat gallantry to 11-year-old David Anthony Smith, son of Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith. Alongside the president and the boy were Smith’s widow, Birgit, and the couple’s 18-year-old daughter, Jessica.

This is the first time the Medal of Honor has been awarded for action in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terror.

Smith was part of the 3rd Infantry Division’s buildup for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and among the first wave of soldiers that crossed the Kuwait border into Iraq on March 19, 2003, the first day of the war. He died saving the lives of at least 100 soldiers who were badly outnumbered by enemy forces.

In presenting the award, Bush described Smith as “a soldier whose service illustrates the highest ideals of leadership and love of our country.”

Bush recalled Smith’s early life and career in the Army and described the battle that took his life.

Smith’s mission, as the 3rd Infantry Division moved in to seize what is now known as Baghdad International Airport, was to build a holding area for enemy prisoners of war. “Sergeant Smith was leading about three dozen men,” Bush said, “when they were surprised by about 100 of Saddam Hussein’s Republican Guard.

“With complete disregard for his own life, and under constant enemy fire, Sergeant Smith rallied his men and led a counterattack. Seeing that his wounded men were in danger of being overrun, ... Sergeant Smith manned a .50-caliber machine gun atop a damaged armored vehicle.

“From a completely exposed position, he killed as many as 50 enemy soldiers as he protected his men.” Bush said. “Sergeant Smith’s leadership saved the men in the courtyard, and he prevented an enemy attack on the aid station just up the road.”

Bush said Smith continued to fire until he “took a fatal round to the head. His actions in that courtyard saved the lives of more than 100 American soldiers.” Soldiers who served with Smith described him as a stern disciplinarian who demanded much of the men under his command, Bush said. Yet Smith also demonstrated incredible concern, going out of his way to make life easier for his soldiers and their families, he added.

In a letter he wrote to his parents from Iraq, but never mailed, Bush said, the sergeant called it a “privilege to be given 25 of the finest Americans we call soldiers to lead into war.” Smith said he was prepared to give “all that I am to ensure that my boys make it home.”

In addition to being the global war on terror’s first Medal of Honor recipient, Smith is the first to earn a Medal of Honor flag, authorized by Congress in 2002.

Ceremonies in Smith’s honor took place Tuesday at the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes and at Arlington National Cemetery.

(Courtesy American Forces Press Service)

**Visit [http://  
www.  
laughlin.af.mil/  
Airshow/  
index.html](http://www.laughlin.af.mil/Airshow/index.html)  
for  
information  
on demo and  
show times  
of Air  
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good ideas with  
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system at  
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randolph.af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil)  
or call Tech. Sgt.  
Thomas Mayo at  
298-4355.**



Operations yield more suspects, weapons caches in Iraq

Army troops detained 10 for insurgent activity

WASHINGTON – Iraqi security forces and multinational forces from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), detained 26 suspected insurgents during operations in northern Iraq March 30 and 31, Multinational Force Iraq officials reported April 1.

During two operations in Mosul March 30, Iraqi army troops from the 101st Battal-

ion, 21st Brigade, detained 10 individuals suspected of insurgent activity. Officials said five suspects were captured during a cordon-and-search operation and five others at a traffic checkpoint.

Multinational Force soldiers detained another 10 suspects during a March 31 raid southwest of Mosul, and soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment,

detained five individuals suspected of insurgent activity during two cordon-and-search operations south of Mosul.

In addition, officials said Iraqi policemen and U.S. soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, detained one suspect during a March 31 cordon-and-search operation in Tal Afar.

All suspects are in custody, and no injuries to Multinational Force Iraq troops were reported during the incidents.

Meanwhile, U.S. Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion and 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, responded to 15 separate weapons cache sites approximately 12 kilometers southeast of Camp Fallujah March 29.

A weapons cache discovered by members of the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion included machine guns, night-vision goggles, bomb fuses, primers, detonators, mortars and mortar rounds, high-explosive warheads, propellant sticks, batteries, and other explosives and materials used to build im-

provised explosive devices.

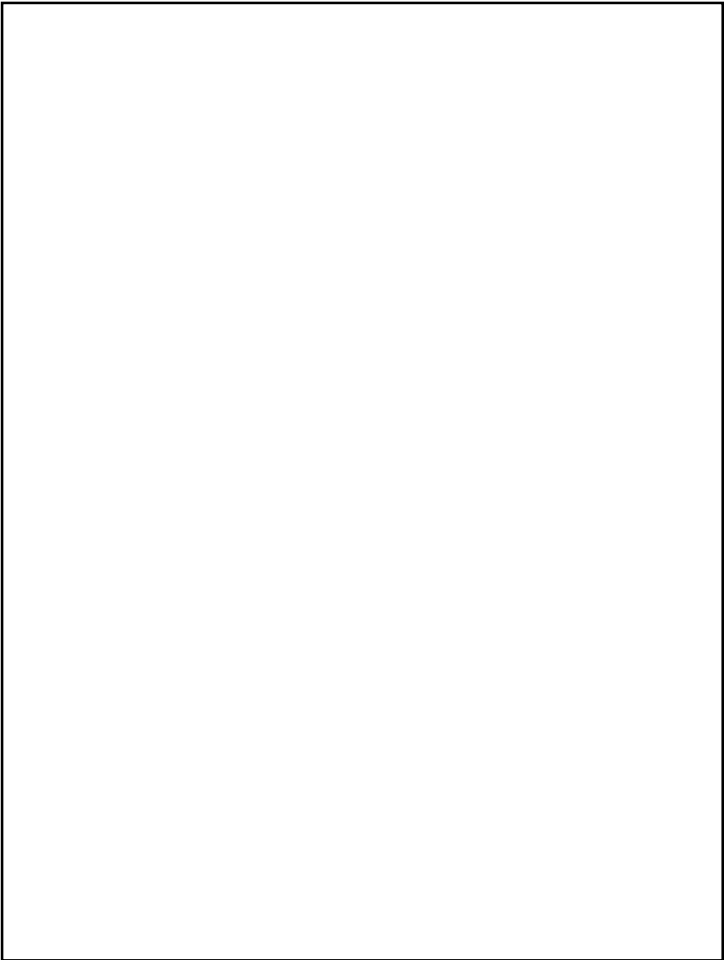
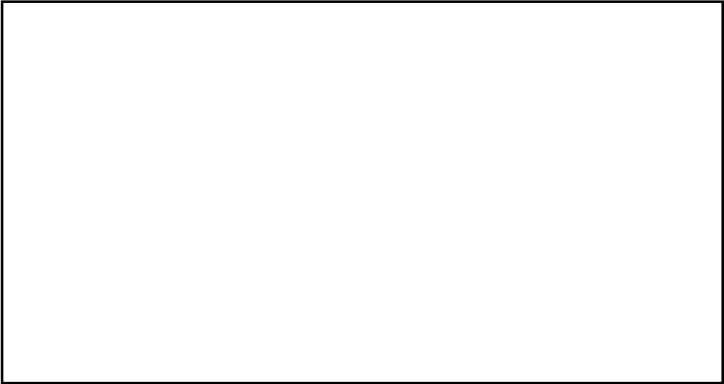
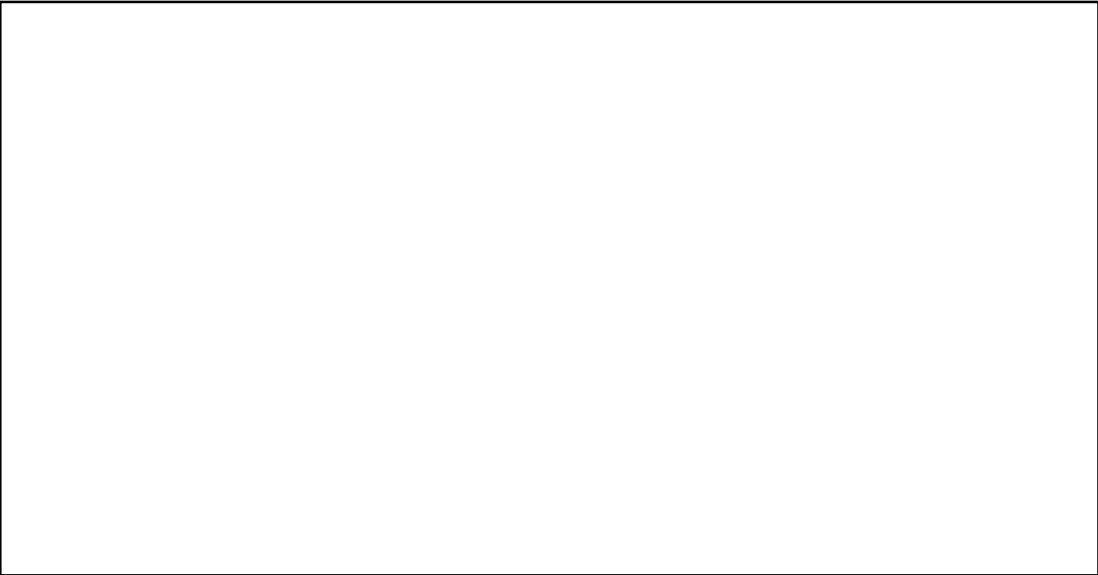
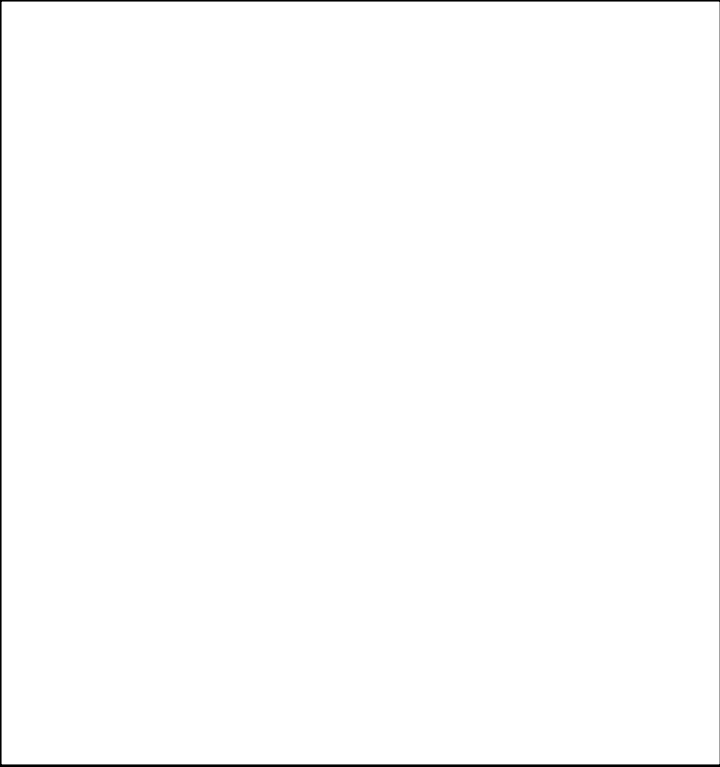
Officials said all items containing explosives were destroyed on scene, and the Marines confiscated pictures of ordnance, a map of the area, notebooks on weapons, and personal journals, which will be analyzed for intelligence purposes.

“We destroy explosive components in order to get rid of the enemy’s improvised-explosive-device supplies, and we gather intelligence on the device to potentially lead us to the bomber

as well as determine his capabilities and how close he is getting to us,” said Chief Warrant Officer Steven R. Lucas, platoon commander for explosive ordnance disposal.

“Our ultimate goal is to make it harder for them to target us, mitigating explosive threats and hazards towards servicemembers and civilians,” Lucas said.

(Courtesy American Forces Press Service)



# Pat Tillman USO Center opens in Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Darren Heusel  
*American Forces Press Service*

With snow-peaked mountains and roaring aircraft engines as a backdrop, several hundred members of the coalition in Afghanistan turned out Sunday for the grand opening of the Pat Tillman USO Center here.

The center is named for former Arizona Cardinals safety Pat Tillman, who put his career in the National Football League on hold to join the Army after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and was later killed in battle in Afghanistan.

Bagram's is the 123rd United Service Organizations center around the world and just the third in Southwest or Central Asia, according to John Hanson, USO senior vice president of marketing and communications.

"We are a partnership between the civilian community and the military," Hanson told the crowd as they gathered around the center's entrance to show support for Tillman and sought autographed footballs whizzing through the air from Warrick Dunn of the Atlanta Falcons and Larry Izzo of the New England Patriots.

"The USO is the way America can support the military, ... which dates (from) before the days of World War II," Hanson said.

The center, located next to the



**Members of the coalition in Afghanistan pay tribute to former Arizona Cardinals safety Pat Tillman, who joined the Army and was killed in Afghanistan, during the opening of the Pat Tillman USO Center on Sunday at Bagram Air Base.**



*Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Darren D. Heusel*

Bagram passenger terminal, features several rooms with large-screen televisions, video game stations and telephones. One of Pat Tillman's jerseys hangs on a wall in the largest room. The center has two floors, indoor plumbing, and a café with drinks and snacks.

Pete Abitante, senior director for international public affairs for the NFL, read a letter from Tillman's widow, Marie, which stated, "Pat was honored to serve beside you, and we are pleased you will see his name every time you enter this facility."

"This facility will make your time away from home a lot easier," Marie wrote in the letter.

The NFL provided most of the funding for the facility, donating \$250,000 to the USO for construction of a recreational building for troops serving at and moving through Bagram Air Base.

"I may get a lot of notoriety on television, but you guys are the true heroes," said Dunn, a standout running back who began his career in Tampa Bay and earned the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year award for community service last year.

Izzo, who was sporting two huge Super Bowl championship rings and has another on the way, said, "When you played against Pat Tillman, you had to bring your 'A' game. He was a warrior."

The Patriots' special teams captain echoed Dunn's comments, saying, "You guys are the true patriots."

Tillman served in Iraq in 2003 and Afghanistan in 2004. He was killed April 22, 2004, during an ambush set up by insurgents in eastern Afghanistan.

**Warrick Dunn of the Atlanta Falcons (front) and Larry Izzo of the New England Patriots toss autographed footballs to members of the coalition in Afghanistan prior to the opening of the Pat Tillman USO Center April 3 at Bagram Air Base. The center is named in honor of former Arizona Cardinals safety Pat Tillman, who was killed in eastern Afghanistan on April 22, 2004.**



# Dental lab tech keeps Laughlin members smiling

Story by Airman 1st Class  
Olufemi A. Owolabi  
Editor

The only dental laboratory technician assigned to Laughlin keeps people smiling by providing a special service to base members.

Staff Sgt. Kathleen Crowell, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, designs, prepares and fabricates dental prostheses (devices for replacing missing teeth) and oral appliances here.

“Our mission here (in conjunction with dentists) is to improve the oral health of patients and to ensure a ready force,” said Sergeant Crowell.

Patients’ huge smiles, when they get help with creating some of their lost teeth or all of their natural teeth due to damage through bone loss, trauma or other causes, are what gives a dental lab technician a sense of accomplishment.

After a lab technician’s job is completed, a patient will be able to eat, talk and smile as well or better than before.

Dental laboratory technicians work directly with dentists by following detailed written instructions and using molds of patients’ teeth and oral soft tissues to create prostheses. “We work closely with the doctor and patient to ensure the dental prostheses is functional and aesthetic,” said Ser-



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi

**Staff Sgt. Kathleen Crowell, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron technician grinds an acrylic night guard, which is used for a tempromandibular joint joints of the jaws) disfunctions, during a routine inspection of a cast of teeth at the clinic here Tuesday.**



geant Crowell.

In addition, Sergeant Crowell said one of the required traits of a dental lab technician is creativity. “A dental lab technician must be creative. I listen to the doctor describe something and I create it,” she said.

Sergeant Crowell also makes crowns, which are caps for teeth that restore their original shade and shape.

You must have the touch of an artist to be a good technician, she added.

Apart from the opportunity to work in the medical sector, Sergeant Crowell said her skills could lead her to an unusual career. Because of skills acquired by using sophisticated instruments and equipment to create replacements, she said after retirement, a technician can also work on designing jewelry.

“A sense of accomplishment is achieved when we see the smile on the patient’s face. This shows my job boosts their morale and increases their self esteem. It’s a fun job,” she said.

## The XLer

**Senior Airman Sara Wacenske**  
47th Flying Training Wing command post

**Hometown:** Spokane, Wash.

**Family:** Mom and sister

**Time at Laughlin:** One year and 8 months

**Time in service:** Two and half years

**Greatest accomplishment:** My greatest accomplishment in the military is definitely getting Senior Airman Below the Zone!

**Hobbies:** Watching movies, hanging out with friends, snowboarding and skydiving

**Bad habit:** Smoking and procrastinating

**Favorite movies:** “Office Space,” “Seven” and “Dumb and Dumber”

**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?** My dad, he passed away in March last year and I really miss him. I need some advice.

“Senior Airman Wacenske embodies the whole person concept. Her first response to all tasks is always, will get right on that,” she never hesitates to accept additional responsibilities.”

By Master Sgt.  
Timothy Gorshe  
Superintendent,  
47th FTW command post



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi Owolabi





Photo by Capt. Lisa Adams

Army Cpl. Aaron Webber uses a lap quilt stitched by the “Lytle Stitchers.” It was given to him at the 332nd Aeromedical Staging Facility, Iraq, while he was awaiting transportation to Germany.

# Support for wounded warriors in Iraq reaches across America

Story by Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer  
59th Medical Wing  
public affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE — Americans watching news coverage of the war in Iraq are asking, “How can I show my support for our brave servicemembers?”

To show their support, many have donated phone cards, frequent flier miles or sent letters and messages.

A group of San Antonio area quilters are doing their part to support wounded veterans.

Stitched with love and gratitude, their lap quilts are just big enough to cover the legs of those in wheelchairs or on stretchers.

Military retiree Larry Cromer and his wife Dee, own a quilt shop in Lytle, Texas.

They said it was the perfect answer.

“It really hit home,” Mrs. Cromer said. “Here is something we can do. We need to appreciate the members of the armed forces that are overseas fighting for us, and if they’re injured, we can try to make life a little better for them by sending love stitched in each quilt.”

The quilters’ efforts began after learning of a similar project by a Maryland quilters guild.

The project soon grew to more than 30 people. Known as the “Lytle Stitchers,” most of the participants have ties to the military.

As word spread, other local guilds joined the cause.

Mr. Cromer shared their story in a quilters’ Internet chat room and asked other quilters to send blocks of fabric with patriotic themes and

colors. The request netted blocks of fabric from all over America. Norma Koth, a Pennsylvania quilter in her 70s, has sent 15 hand-stitched quilts so far, and a North Carolina fabric company donated 2,300 yards of patriotic material.

Local children also participated. Small handprints become angels or hearts, while little footprints share space with the words “Stand for Freedom,” while others draw pictures or write poems.

Each red, white and blue quilt is sewn with a label which reads, “To: An American Hero, From: The Lytle Stitchers.”

“In a small community, you do for each other,” Mrs. Cromer said. “It’s wonderful how this project has spilled out to the world. These (servicemembers) come from

## Chapel information

### Catholic

Monday - Friday	1 Mass, 12:05 p.m.
Saturday	1 Mass, 5 p.m., Reconciliation, 4:15 p.m. or by appointment
Sunday	1 Mass, 9:30 a.m., Religious Education, 11 a.m.
Thursday	1 Choir: 6 p.m., Rite of Christian Initiation, 7:30 p.m.

### Protestant

Wednesday	1 Choir, 7 p.m.; Protestant Women of the Chapel Ladies’ Bible Study, 9 a.m.
Sunday	1 General worship, 11 a.m., Contemporary worship, 9 a.m. in the base theater

### Chaplain Staff

Wing chaplain:	Chap. (Lt. Col.) Joseph Lim, Roman Catholic
Senior Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Terri Gast, Presbyterian Church, USA
Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Alex Jack, Independent Christian Church
Protestant:	Chap. (Capt.) Kenneth Fisher, Evangelical Church Alliance

For more information on other denominations, chapel events or services, call 298-5111. For information on special events, see the Community Calendar on page 16.

every state imaginable, and we want them all to know we thank them and appreciate them.”

The Cromers are working with Maryland Jones, Wilford Hall volunteer services director, to send quilts directly to a field hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

“It’s wonderful how this project has brought our community closer together,” Ms. Jones said. “It has touched the hearts of so many and just

keeps growing.”

The Lytle Stitchers also have sent quilts to Scott AFB, Ill., Wilford Hall and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

A quilt means so many things,” said Lytle Stitcher Kitty Janiga. “Warmth, cheer and caring, as well as something for the (servicemembers) to wrap themselves in. They’re perfect; what’s better than a quilt?”

# Airman designs new EOD vehicle

By 2nd Lt. Ashley Conner  
22nd Air Refueling Wing  
public affairs

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — An Airman here designed an explosive ordnance disposal vehicle that will serve as an Air Force benchmark.

The original design was drawn on the back of a napkin by Staff Sgt. Phillip Hauser with the 22nd Civil Engineer Squadron here and Air Force officials have purchased more than 30 of the \$274,000 vehicles.

Sergeant Hauser worked with the vehicle’s manufacturer to ensure the smallest details were in place.

In the old vehicles, “there was never enough room for all the equipment. The new vehicle has much more space for equipment and room to work in,” Sergeant Hauser said.

“It is more efficient and professional,” said Staff Sgt. Jeff Schrader, another squadron EOD technician. “In the past we would show up on the scene

in a multipurpose van and our gear was held together with bungee cords and rubber bands. It was like a clown car.”

The 38,000-pound truck runs on an 8cylinder Mercedes-Benz engine and is equipped with doors on either side to allow an EOD robot to exit with ease. The new design also features closed-in quartz lights strategically placed in the side of the vehicle, four halogen lights atop the truck and a light tower that extends 25.

“In the past we would be sitting in the dark in the middle of nowhere with a little (flashlight) trying to see what we were doing,” Sergeant Hauser said. “After 10 years of being an EOD tech, I knew what needed to be changed.”

The truck also is equipped with automatic tire chains, a lined explosive compartment as well as TV and infrared cameras that can project images to screens inside the truck.

Sergeant Hauser said he helped with every detail of the vehicle with insight from the Orlando Bomb Squad.

The bomb squad had a

similar vehicle made and, “they were able to give us advice and tell us what worked and what didn’t,” Sergeant Hauser said.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Ashley Conner

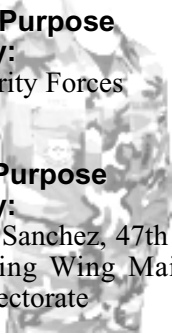
Staff Sgt. Phillip Hauser stands next to the new Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal vehicle he helped design. This vehicle will serve as the benchmark for all Air Force EOD vehicles. Sergeant Hauser is an EOD technician with the 22nd Civil Engineering Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

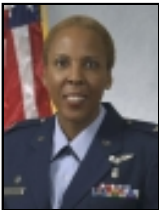
## Laughlin Salutes

“Top Wheels”  
awards winners

General Purpose  
Category:  
47th Security Forces  
Squadron

Special Purpose  
Category:  
Johnny J. Sanchez, 47th Fly-  
ing Training Wing Mainte-  
nance Directorate





What's  
up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes  
47th Medical Group  
commander

**Question:** I had to check out my medical record to take to an appointment off base. When I went to the clinic to pick it up, they told me they couldn't hand me my full record, but could only provide copies of the parts that I needed for my appointment. I don't understand why they couldn't just give me my record!

**Answer:** I am sorry you had such a frustrating experience. All medical records maintained at our facility are the property of the United States Government. We must adhere to very strict rules on what we can place in the record, how it is main-

tained, and who we can allow to access it.

There are significant medical-legal issues that occur if we do not adhere to the rules, and the medical record contains your personal health information that must be protected under the Privacy Act, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). To ensure compliance with Department of Defense and Air Force policy, we can only provide you with copies of the pertinent parts of your record when you go to appointments outside of our clinic.

The good news is that the outpatient records section at our clinic is ready to serve your needs.

All you have to do is come in to our Outpatient Records section as soon as you have made your off-base appointment.

The staff will help you complete the proper paperwork that authorizes us to release your information to another provider, and we will ensure the pertinent sections of the record are copied in time for your appointment. When you return the day prior to your appointment, your

copies will be ready for you to take to your appointment.

You can also check with the Outpatient Record's section 48 hours prior to your appointment, to ensure your copies will be ready at a convenient time for you to pick-up. Please contact our NCOIC of Tricare Operations and Patient Administration Master Sgt. Stephen Miller at 298-6371 if you have any questions. Due to your feedback, we will also start advertising the process in the Base Bulletin, and keep emphasizing the process at newcomer's Right Start briefings.

Thank you for your question!  
You can contact our Family Care provider on call for advice and authorization for emergency care from 4:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday, weekends and holidays at 703-6199.

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at [laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil) if you have a What's Up Doc? question.

Intramural Volleyball  
Standings  
Eastern  
Conference

Team Name	Win	Loss
CCS	8	0
MDG	6	3
SFS	4	4
CES	4	6
MSS	1	7



Western  
Conference

Team Name	Win	Loss
86th	6	1
87th	6	1
47th OSS	3	5





Photo by Paco Mendoza

It's in the hole...

Chief Master Sgt. Ted Pilihos, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant, putts while team members, Col. John Hanna, Lt. Col. Mike Claffey and Pat Collins look on during the 34th Annual Commanders Golf Tournament at the Leaning Pines Golf Course Saturday. The tournament's winning team consisted of Cheryl and Col. Lawrence Humphrey, Lt. Col. Lew Nunley, and Master Sgt. Dave Wix with a 26 under par. Eighteen teams competed in the tournament.

PT still mandatory  
for those on profile

Profile: Not an  
escape route for  
physical training

By 2nd Lt. Ashley Conner  
22nd Air Refueling Wing  
public affairs

MCCONNELL AIR FORCE BASE, Kan. — Many Airmen believe being on profile is an escape route from participating in unit physical training, but officials here said it is not.

“Just because a (person) has a profile that says ‘no running, jumping, crunches, push-ups, and no cycle ergo’ does not mean that the (Airman) cannot go to the fitness center and participate in unit fitness,” said Lt. Col. Kathleen Ankers, 22nd Medical Group’s medical staff chief.

There are only a few reasons an Airmen can be exempt from unit fitness, which include being hospitalized, being closely medically supervised during convalescence from a very serious illness and being on medically prescribed bed rest, officials said.

Though a person may not be able to participate fully in all the unit’s specific exercises, he or she will need to participate in an individual exercise program.

Health and wellness center officials can tailor individual exercise routines to meet the person’s needs and limitations.

“We conduct a one-on-one interview with (Airmen) to determine (their) limitations unique to them, such as high blood pressure, pregnancy or injuries,” said Bart Patterson, a health technician at the center here.

In most cases, the person’s limitations are what prevent him or her from participating in the unit’s program, officials said.

Once the limitations are assessed, they list their goals, such as to lose weight or increase muscle mass, and describe what type of workout they want.

They tell us how often they want to work out and what equipment they want to use. If their ideal workout isn’t effective, we tailor it. It is a very individualized process,” Mr. Patterson said.

Airmen may not be able to run or complete the push-up portions of the fitness test, but if they are able to have their abdominal circumference measured, they can be fitness tested, since a score can be calculated on the basis of just one measure, officials said.

A primary care provider can recommend exception from abdominal circumference testing only after an abdominal surgery or up to 180 days after pregnancy, according to Air Force Instruction 10-248, Fitness Program.

Airmen who violate a profile can have administrative action taken by their commander. This could possibly have negative repercussions if they meet a medical board and it is documented that they did not follow orders.

XL Fitness Center hours

298-5251



Monday - Thursday:  
5 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Friday:  
5 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday:  
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Commissary  
hours

The commissary is open:

Tuesdays  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Wednesdays  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Thursdays  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Friday  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sundays  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Mondays  
Closed